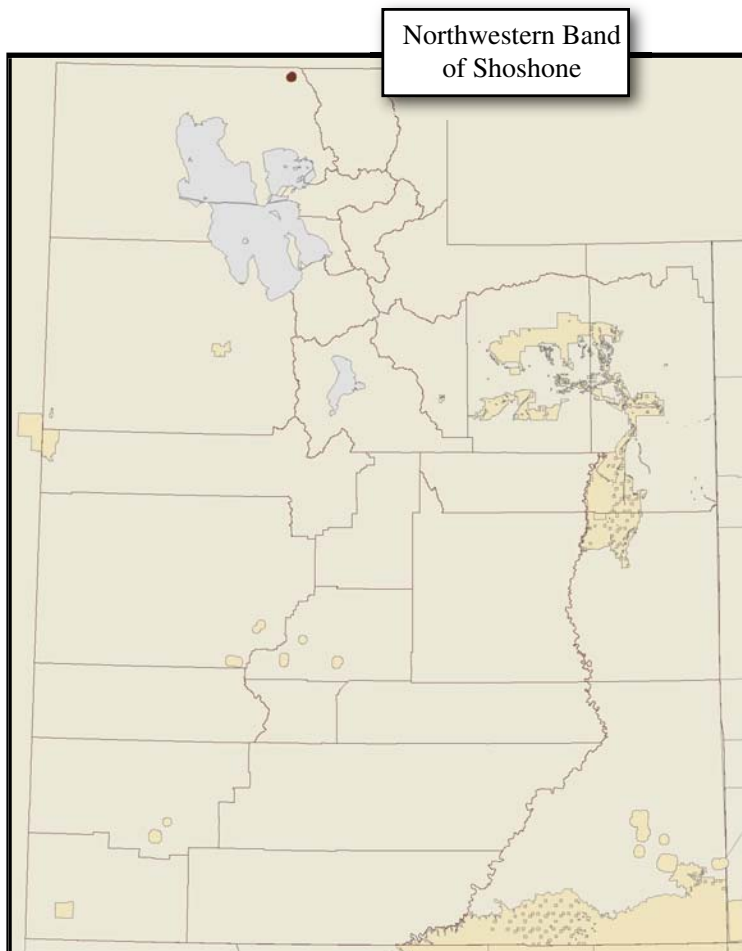


Northwestern Band of Shoshone Tribe Profile

Prepared for the:
Dixie, Fishlake & Manti-La Sal National Forests
Forest Plan Revision
Social and Economic Assessment

Prepared by:
Utah Governor's Office of Planning and Budget
with assistance from:
Utah State University College of Natural Resources
Utah Division of Indian Affairs



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NORTHWESTERN BAND OF SHOSHONE TRIBE—OVERVIEW



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Governance

Tribal Council, General Council.
Self-governance form of government,
constitution approved August 1987.

Current Issues

Economic development
Designating Bear River massacre site
as national park

Tribal Land

Approximately 200 acres

The homeland of the Northwestern Shoshone peoples is northern and western Utah, and their subsistence range included the southeast corner of Idaho. Their pre-treaty economy consisted of hunting, fishing, gathering, and trading. Their land base includes 187 acres of land given to the tribe by the LDS Church in 1989, which constitutes the Tribe's reservation. There are additional privately owned Indian lands held in trust by the Bureau of Indian Affairs nearby. Today, many members reside along Utah's Wasatch Front. In 2002, there were 431 enrolled members in Idaho and Utah. Members practice both traditional religions and Christian denominations and speak Shoshone and English

January 29, 1863 is a significant date of remembrance for the people of the Northwestern Band of Shoshone. On this date, 250 to 275 Shoshone men, women, and children were killed in an attack of their village along the banks of the Bear River in near present day Preston, Idaho. This event is known as the Bear River Massacre. The site was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1990 and is currently being considered by Congress for addition to the National Park System. An environmental assessment of the site was conducted to analyze the suitability and feasibility of adding it to the national park system, and to examine viable alternatives for the protection and public use of the site. The NW Shoshone are presently seeking to secure this land as a permanent trust site.

The basis for the tribe's legal status include: Treaty of Box Elder, June 30, 1863; Act to Ratify an Agreement with the Eastern Shoshone. September 26, 1872, ratified in December 15, 1874; Act to ratify an Agreement with the Shoshone, Bannocks, and Sheepeaters of the Fort Hall Reservation, May 14, 1880, ratified February 23, 1889; Act to Ratify an Agreement with the Shoshone Bannock Tribes at Fort Hall, July 18, 1881, ratified on July 3, 1882. The tribe did not accept the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934. The Northwestern Band of Shoshone Indians received recognition in 1980.

The basis for the tribe's off-reservations interests and rights is Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe v. Morton, 354 F. Supp. 252 (D.D.C. 1973), Nance v. E.P.A. 645 F.2d 701 (9th Circuit 1981), which affirms inherent sovereignty, socio-economic well-being on their reservation. Northern Cheyenne Tribe v. Hodel, 12 Indian L. Rep. 3065 (D. Mont. 1985) affirms that federal agencies have a trust obligation when their actions may adversely affect the water quality/quality, air quality, or property of Indian reservations.

A History of Utah American Indians (2000). Ed. Forrest S. Cuch. Utah State University Press, Logan Utah
Junction, January 1998

N.W. Band of Shoshone Nation Tribal Profile, Utah Division of Indian Affairs, 1997
<http://dced.utah.gov/indian/Today/Shoshone.html>

Northwestern Band of Shoshone—Overview

Utah Governor's Office of Planning and Budget